

Application No.: 09/746,917

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending in this application. The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors caused by one version of Microsoft Word not having access to the same symbols as another version of Microsoft Word. Specifically in Equation 2, the numerals 3 and 4 were replaced with the symbols for intersection and union, respectively. In Equation 3, the brackets were replaced with the symbol for "less than or equal to" and the equal sign was replaced with the negative sign.

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 10, 12, 14, 25, 27 and 29 were indicated to have allowable subject matter. Claims 10, 12, 14, 25, 27 and 29 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base and any intervening claims. Claims 30-36 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-9, 13, 16, 18-24, 26, 28, 30-33 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herz et al. in view of Chan et al. The Examiner cited Herz et al. for disclosing a system and method for providing item recommendations comprising a memory, a processor for storing ratings of items and for generating recommendations for new items based on recommendation criteria, wherein, responsive to the user request, the processor stores an implicit rating for the requested item in the memory, determines whether based on the implicit rating and the recommendation criteria, to generate an item recommendation and if the criteria for generating a recommendation is met, generates a recommendation of a new item. The Examiner cited Chan for disclosing a device, responsive to a user request, for recording an item on a hardcopy medium and stated that it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art to include a device, responsive to a user request, for recording an item on a hardcopy medium in the system of Herz et al. as taught by Chan. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants' invention as claimed in Claim 1 is directed to a system for providing item recommendations, comprising: a memory; a device, responsive to a user request, for recording an item on a hardcopy medium; a processor, for storing ratings of items and for generating recommendations for new items based on recommendation criteria; wherein, responsive to the user request, the processor stores an implicit rating for the requested item in the memory,

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determines whether, based on the implicit rating and the recommendation criteria, to generate an item recommendation, and if the criteria for generating a recommendation is met, generates a recommendation of a new item. The method gathers recommendations without the active participation of users, by deducing implicit recommendations from a work group's use of a shared recording device, such as a printer, a copier, a scanner or a set of printers, copiers or scanners, or some combination thereof. Each time a user requests, for example, a document to be printed, the method records this fact as an implicit recommendation of the document.

Herz et al. is directed to a system and method for generating user profiles for a system for customized electronic identification of desirable objects. Herz et al. indicates the system can be used as a news clipping service (col. 55, lines 41-55) and matches a user's interests, based solely on articles the user chooses to read. Chan is directed to a secure printing system and method in which a document can be sent to a printer in such a way that only the intended recipient can print the document. Chan is concerned with the problem that users, other than the intended recipient, may have access to a document once it has been printed. Chan's method prevents unauthorized users from having access to the document. Even though Chan's method stores a copy of a document to be printed, only the intended recipient may direct the printer to print it. Access to the document is limited to the intended recipient.

One skilled in the art would not combine Herz et al. with Chan. Indeed, Chan's method cannot be combined in a recommender system since its teachings are contrary to those of a recommender system. In a recommender system, users want their recommended items disclosed to others in the system. Users also want to know what items others are recommending. Users who employ Chan's method do not want their documents made available, in any manner, to others. Users who employ Chan's secure printing method do not want to have a recommender system recommend their documents to others.

Claims 1-9, 13, 16, 18-24, 26, 28 are believed to be patentable over Herz et al. in view of Chan. Claims 1-29 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Consideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the

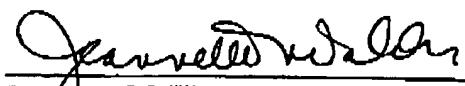
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Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Attorney for Applicants, Jeannette Walder.

Respectfully submitted,



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